

millions of Americans who saw the value of their home and their retirement funds disappear fails to convince my Republican colleagues of the need to make sure that banks cannot gamble with the money of middle-class Americans, it's difficult to imagine what would.

The CHOICE Act recreates the conditions that led to the 2008 crisis by allowing banks to again engage in risky investment behavior with their clients' money, and limiting oversight of banks by the federal government. If a key financial institution like the Lehmann Brothers, whose collapse contributed to the severity of the crisis in 2008, again collapses, the CHOICE Act then limits the ability of the government to intervene to guard against a total collapse of the financial system.

The assault that the CHOICE Act represents on the livelihood of middle and working class Americans isn't limited to this. Although consumer protection should be the most basic goal of all lawmakers, this bill subjugates consumer protection and welfare to the banking and finance industry in two additional ways. First, it will gut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency created by Dodd-Frank and tasked with protecting Americans from irresponsible or predatory behavior by financial institutions. The CHOICE Act thus nearly eradicates the ability of the U.S. government to monitor the safety of financial products for everyday Americans, thus leaving a massive void in consumers' daily lives, as financial product offerings continue to expand and grow more and more complex and sometimes difficult to understand.

The Wrong CHOICE Act will also nullify the much-needed fiduciary rule, allowing investment advisors to make decisions with the money of their clients that aren't in their clients' best interest. This is shameful, and will allow bad apple investment advisors to take advantage of often elderly clients who, understandably, assume that those investment advisors will help them save for their retirement rather than put their own fees first.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today to stand with our nation's retirees and working families and vote down this irresponsible bill.

RECOGNIZING JAKE HANSEN

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jake Hansen, owner and founder of Bricktree Customs.

Bricktree Customs, a custom LEGO Kit Company in Longmont, Colorado, was founded by Jake in 2015, at the young age of 16. He has created over a dozen carnival-themed custom LEGO kits to date, all of which he designed. Jake's kits are available at local toy stores in Longmont, as well as online in a global marketplace.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses are the backbone of our economy and communities. It is the ingenuity and hard work of Coloradans like Jake that make America a global leader. He has shown true creativity and innovation in his business and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Jake as he pursues his future undertakings.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Jake Hansen for his accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL SMITH

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael A. Smith, an outstanding member of a special family in the Shenandoah Valley, whose generosity of time, energy, and money has made a significant difference in the lives of my Shenandoah Valley constituents. Mr. Smith recently received the President's Award of Shepherd University, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, for his extraordinary service and contributions to that university.

With the passing of their father, Gerald F. Smith, in 2003, Michael and his brother, Gerald Smith, Jr. have led the family owned business, Valley Proteins, Inc., through a period of remarkable growth. Established in 1949 by their grandfather, Clyde A. Smith, as a one-

truck service for recycling waste meat byproducts and spent cooking oils, Valley Proteins is now one of the largest independent rendering companies in North America, operating 12 plants in seven states.

Although the Smith family enterprise has consumed most of the brothers' time, they have both given back to the community in significant ways. Michael has served as the President of the Winchester Youth Development Center, which provides recreational and enrichment opportunities for the youth of Winchester, the Vice President of the Virginia Community College Foundation, which raises funds to provide access to post-secondary education to all Virginians, the Treasurer and Annual Giving Chairman for Powhatan School, and the President of the Board of Directors of the Upperville Colt and Horse Show.

Since graduating from Shepherd University with a business degree in 1989, Michael Smith has also generously given of his time and money to his alma mater. Today, he is president of the Shepherd University Foundation, which receives and administers private gifts for student scholarships, academic and program support, faculty excellence awards and other university initiatives. In addition to starting two endowed funds in the name of his grandfather and father, Smith assisted with the university's efforts to create a school of business, by issuing a generous challenge grant which resulted in the raising of more than \$650,000 for the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring Michael Smith, Vice President of Valley Proteins, Inc., for his special recognition from Shepherd University and his extraordinary contributions to the residents of the northern Shenandoah Valley and the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on account of my flight being cancelled from MIA-DCA. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 300 and YEA on Roll Call No. 301.